

Recent economic numbers indicate our economy is booming. 211,000 new jobs were created in March. Our unemployment level has dropped to 4.7 percent and college graduates are entering the hottest job market in more than five years. Our economy probably expanded at a robust 4.9 percent pace in the first quarter according to economists surveyed by Bloomberg.

But gas prices soaring over \$3 per gallon will most certainly derail our economic expansion unless Republicans and Democrats come together and enact legislation that will lower gas prices for the American people.

Five bills that will help lower gas prices.

1. One clean burning fuel for the whole country to use rather than 16 that are currently required across the country. We need to end local fuel monopolies.
2. Increase conservation by raising fuel economy standards from 20.7 MPG to 33 MPG. This one act alone will save the average family over \$2,000 per year in gas costs
3. Extend hybrid tax credits. We must embrace a new energy policy to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Hybrid and Hydrogen technology are the future

4. Expand oil refineries. We have not built a new oil refinery in 30 years.

5. Boost E85 fuel deployment. E85 sells on average 60 cents less in Minnesota and North Dakota and more than 20 cents less than regular unleaded gasoline in Illinois.

Federal action is needed to lower gas prices. Rising oil prices hurts our pocketbooks and is a serious roadblock to our incredible economic expansion. The federal action I have called for enjoys widespread bipartisan support in the House and Senate. The American people are looking for relief at the pump and effective action by the federal government.